

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

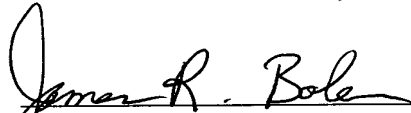
The present application is a continuation application of, and claims priority under 35 USC 120 to, Serial No. 10/232,675 ("the parent application").

The above preliminary amendment cancels Claims 1-20, examined in the parent application, and adds new Claims 21 and 22.

Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 21-22 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Registration No. 28,870  
James R. Boler  
Registration No. 37,058  
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)

EHK/JRB/kad

I:\ATTY\JRB\242583US\PRELIM AMDT.DOC